It’s About Time!

Time is an ongoing sequence of events measured in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years with clocks and calendars. Whether we like it or not, our lives require us to follow schedules. Young children are not born with an innate sense of time. They learn the concept of time through their daily routines and activities. We teach time to develop children’s ability to recognize the patterns that make the world understandable and predictable.

Teaching time also develops a child’s ability to break down events into simple steps and put those steps in order. Time is an abstract and hard concept for preschoolers, so it is important to give them the vocabulary and background knowledge they need to express the continuity of time. Reading books about day and night, days of the week, seasons, daily routines and sequencing will help preschoolers develop their sense of time.

Books About Time

Find these and many other time-related books at your neighborhood library branch.

Sequencing

How Will We Get to the Beach? by Brigitte Luciani
Roxanne must leave behind a ball, umbrella, book, turtle or baby as she tries various means of transportation to get to the beach.

One Dog Canoe by Mary Casanova
A girl and her dog set out in their canoe one morning, only to be insistently joined by a series of animals, large and small.

Months

Hap-pea All Year by Keith Baker
In rhyming text, a group of happy green peas celebrates the special holidays of each month and the passing seasons.

Jump Into January by Stella Balckstone
A short verse for each month of the year encourages the reader to find objects hidden in the pictures that depict that month’s activities.

Twelve Hats for Lena: A Book of Months by Karen Katz
Lena Katz creates hats appropriate for each month of the year.

Day and Night

Black Cat, White Cat by Silvia Borando
A black cat who only ever goes out during the day and a white cat who only goes out at night meet in the
middle and start a beautiful relationship together.

**Day and Night** by Shira Evans
This book describes how birds tweet and bees buzz in the daylight before entirely different creatures awaken and prowl after dark.

**Daytime Nighttime** by William Low
Introduces animals ranging from butterflies and rabbits to fireflies and frogs, as they make their way in warm sunlight or the cool glow of the moon.

**Daily Routines**

**Bunny Day: Telling Time from Breakfast to Bedtime** by Rick Walton
An hourly account of how the bunny family spends the day together.

**What Time is It, Mr. Crocodile?** by Judy Sierra
Mr. Crocodile's plans to catch and eat some pesky monkeys do not work out, and he becomes friends with them instead.

**What's the Time, Mr. Wolf?** by Debi Gliori
Mr. Wolf has a busy day, his schedule is packed from breakfast to bedtime.

**Days of the Week**

**Big Week for Little Mouse** by Eugenie Fernandes
Little Mouse has just one week to prepare for a big event.

**Busy Builders, Busy Week!** by Jean Reidy
The animals are building a brand-new playground in a local park and each day of the week contains a different construction plan.

**Cookie’s Week** by Cindy Ward
Cookie the cat gets into a different kind of mischief every day of the week.

**Seasons**

**Tree: A Peek-Through Picture Book** by Britta Teckentrup
An owl views the changes in a tree throughout the four seasons.

**The Weather Girls** by Aki
Sixteen little girls set off on a series of seasonal adventures.

**A Wonderful Year** by Nick Bruel
This book comically follows one girl through each of the four seasons.

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**Library Shout Out: Literacy Webinars**

Early Literacy Services partners with the Fairfax County Office for Children to produce quarterly webinars on early literacy topics.

Recent topics have included selecting books to read with young children, tips for using puppets in storytimes, and ideas for presenting an author study in the preschool classroom.

For more information, or for webinar registration through the OFC site go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/office-for-children/institute-early-learning/online-webinars](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/office-for-children/institute-early-learning/online-webinars). These free webinar sessions are designed for early childhood educators working with children ages birth-five. Webinar sessions are open to everyone. **Participants** receive email certificates following the webinar session.